

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 7, please delete the first full paragraph (beginning on line 4 and ending on line 17 of the Substitute Specification) and substitute the following paragraph in place thereof:

Thus, R in the above formula can be a malonyl group in a di-PEG or an ethyl-malonyl group for a mono-PEG example or any suitable linking moiety. Further, PEG derivatives other than the methyl ether form illustrated in the above examples can be utilized in combination with hydroxylation to increase water solubility while minimizing aggregation. Thus Q could be O-methyl, a protecting group, or a functional group. For example, a segment of PEG can be used as a linker to attach a functional moiety to trimetallic nitride endohedral metallofullerenes in addition to enhancing water solubility of the molecular complex and reducing aggregation. Examples of functional moieties include an antigen, an antibody fragment, a membrane anchoring sequence, a polynucleotide, a receptor ligand, biotin, and the like. The functional moiety I can be chosen to correspond to a feature of the desired target of the pegylated and hydroxylated trimetallic nitride endohedral metallofullerenes. The PEG may be derivatized before or modified after pegylation and hydroxylation of the fullerene. The specific choice of PEG molecular weight, and whether the PEG is derivatized with a methyl group or another functional moiety, will depend on the application.